

RYTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

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Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR 1906.

RYTON-ON-TYNE,

31st January, 1907.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ryton Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1906.

POPULATION.—I have adopted 10,300 as the estimate of the population on which the statistics for the year have been calculated, which, considering that the natural increase—the number of births over deaths—is 234, is more likely to err on the side of under than over estimate.

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered during the year was 362, of which 184 were males and 198 females. This gives an annual birth rate of 35·14 per 1,000, which compares favourably with the year 1905, when the number of births was 322, and the birth rate 32·2, and is practically the same as the rate for the Administrative County for 1906, which is 35·2. As the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales was in 1905 27·2, it is evident that the District, as well as the County, has the advantage over the country at large.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered was 128, and the death rate 12·42 per 1,000. This is the lowest death rate of which

I have a record, and is lower than the lowest death rate of any Urban District in the County for 1905, that of Whickham which was 12·7, and well below the County death rate for 1906, which is 17·5, and the mean County death rate for 10 years, which is 17·9.

For the year 1905, the number of deaths was 157, and the death rate 15·7

In examining the mortality figures we find that

Under 1 year the number of deaths was.....48

Under 5 years the number of deaths was.....12

Over 5 years the number of deaths was68, while

Amongst these 68 there were

Over 70 years16, and

Over 80 years 6.

From this it appears that nearly half of the total number of deaths occurred in children under 5 years of age, 46·09 per cent., and of these 48, or 37·5 per cent. were under 1 year.

THE INFANTILE MORTALITY rate therefore per 1,000 births is 132·5, which is a great improvement on the rate for the previous year of 170·8, and compares favourably with the general County rate of 157.

The following summary shows at a glance the chief causes of Infantile Death :—

Premature Births and	9	}	...13
Congenital Defects	4		
Diarrhœa	14	}	...26
Wasting Debility, etc.	12		
Zymotic Disease	3		3
Bronchitis	4		4
Convulsions	1		1
Overlaying	1		1
	—		—
	48		48

Thus 13 deaths, or 27 per cent., were the result of Premature Births and Congenital Defects. Over these we have no direct control, though they are no doubt affected by conditions which tend to deteriorate the general health, and are therefore contributed to by all insanitary influences.

Of other causes of Infantile Mortality, Diarrhœa, as in former years, is the most prominent, being, with other nutritional diseases such as Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus, responsible for more than half the total Infantile mortality, 54 per cent.

Bronehitis was the cause of 4 deaths, Zymotie Disease of 3, and Overlaying of 1. All of these causes, as I have frequently pointed out, are well-known and preventible. And that they are preventible is now being recognised by the general public as well as by Sanatarians. With a diminishing birth-rate it becomes more and more important to preserve Infantile life.

But much attention is now being directed to the subject, and many efforts are being made to improve the conditions that tend to the preservation of infant life, and these no doubt will in time be attended by good results. A better knowledge on the part of mothers and nurses of the hygiene of infancy and childhood, more careful attention to infant feeding, especially to the purity of milk, more sanitary houses, more cleanliness in and around the dwelling, better paved yards and streets, the substitution of ash-closets and water-closets for the old privy middens, are all necessary before we can expect to seriously diminish the death rate of infants and get the best results.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The following table shows the number of deaths from the seven Zymotie Diseases :—

Scarlet Fever.....	2
Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria	3
Enteric Fever.....	1
Diarrhœa	16

Total23

This represents a Zymotic death rate of 2·23, and shows a marked improvement over the previous year with nearly double the number of deaths—42, and a rate of 4·2, and is slightly lower than the Zymotic death rate for the County at 2·40.

In the above table MEASLES is conspicuous by its absence. There were a few cases of this disease in the early part of the year, but no epidemic, and there was no fatality. The contrast with the previous year is very striking, when the disease was epidemic and caused 7 deaths.

SCARLET FEVER causing 2 deaths, has been less fatal than during 1905, when it caused 5 deaths, and during 1904, when it was responsible for 6. The Scarlet Fever mortality rate is 0·18, the same as the mean County rate for ten years, though higher than the County rate for 1906, 0·08.

WHOOPIING COUGH, as during the previous year, caused 1 death, representing a rate of 0·097, comparing favourably with the County rate of 0·30.

DIPHTHERIA caused 3 deaths, representing a rate of ·29, while the County rate is ·20. During the year 1905, the number of deaths was 4, and the rate 0·4, while during the year 1904 there was no fatality.

ENTERIC FEVER causing 1 death and a rate of 0·097, was in marked contrast with the previous year, with its 9 deaths and rate of 0·9.

DIARRHŒA was very prevalent during the autumn, and caused 16 deaths, 2 more than in 1905, 14; and 6 less than in 1904, with 22 deaths. The usual favouring conditions for epidemic Diarrhœa, long continuing hot dry weather, were present, and account for its prevalence and fatality. The Diarrhœa rate, however, 1·55, is not much over the County rate of 1·41, which is considerably higher than the County rate for 1905, 0·90, so that we participate in an increased mortality from Diarrhœa which extended over the whole County.

There was no fatality from PUERPERAL FEVER during the year.

Of the causes of death, apart from Zymotic Disease, the following are the most important :—

Acute Respiratory Disease	16
Phthisis	9
Tubercular Disease	9
Cancerous Diseases	11
Heart Disease.....	5

The 16 deaths from ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASE, which include Bronchitis and Pneumonia, represent a rate of 1·55, and compares favourably with 1905, when the number of deaths was 24, and the rate 2·4, and with the County rate 2·62.

PHTHISIS caused 9 deaths, giving a Phthisis rate of 0·87, while during 1905 it caused 8 deaths, and gave a rate of 0·8. The general County rate is 1·09.

OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES caused also 9 deaths, as against 6 for the previous year, giving a rate of 0·87 against 0·60, the County rate being 0·74.

Tubercular Disease is therefore responsible for 18 deaths, or 14·06 per cent. of the total mortality. The improvement in the treatment of Phthisis, and the now well-recognised methods of fresh air and superabundance of food, best carried out in a Sanatorium, is unfortunately not available for the class of patients who chiefly suffer from these diseases. Nor is it easy in the majority of cases to carry out a modified treatment in the class of houses to which most of these patients belong.

The public are now thoroughly awakened to the importance of this subject, and there can be no doubt that Sanatoria will become more numerous, and that they will in time be available for those who are by their poverty unable to obtain their advantages. A great many early cases will in this way be cured, and these and the more chronic cases, by their isolation, will cease to be a source of infection to the healthy amongst whom they must now of necessity pass their lives.

But in order that early cases may be got at for treatment, and that advanced cases may be isolated and prevented from infecting others, notification to the Sanitary Authority is a necessity. Voluntary notification has not been found successful where it has been tried, and if reliable knowledge of cases of Phthisis is to be obtained, there is, I fear, no alternative than to make notification compulsory, while the prejudice of the patients against the open-air method is very difficult to overcome.

CANCEROUS DISEASES caused 11 deaths the largest number of which I have a record, although in the year 1903 they caused 10 deaths. There is a general belief that Cancer has been on the increase, and these statistics seem to coincide with that belief. I am inclined to think that there may be an actual increase in the prevalence of Cancer, and I think there is no doubt that it occurs at an earlier age than used to be considered possible. But probably the increase is more apparent than real, and is to some extent accounted for by improved methods of diagnosis and better knowledge, largely due to the improved surgery of internal diseases, which enables numbers of cases to be detected with certainty which formerly would have been overlooked.

HEART DISEASE caused 5 deaths, equal to a rate of '48, as against 12 deaths in 1905, 10 in 1904, and 11 in 1903.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were reported during the year 128 cases, and during the previous year 210, a diminution therefore of 82 cases. The following table shows the variety of Infectious Diseases and their numbers :—

Scarlet Fever.....	88 Cases.
Diphtheria	24
Enteric Fever.....	5
Continued Fever	4
Erysipelas	7
<hr/>	
Total	128

SCARLET FEVER shows an increase of 22 cases over the previous year, but the disease was of a milder type, for there were only 2 fatalities in the 88 cases, while in the 66 cases of 1905 there were 5 deaths. The greater number of cases, 51, were fairly equally distributed over the west part of the District, from Thorpe Cottages to Cwaverrook and Clara Vale. The remainder were equally evenly distributed over Greenside, Thorpe Avenue, Runhead, and Hedgefield. The only month in the year in which no case was reported was the month of October. The same want of precaution on the part of mothers in keeping their healthy children from infection has been noticed during the past as during previous years.

DIPHTHERIA.—The number of cases reported, 24, is 4 less than during the previous year, which was double the number for the year 1904.

The cases were distributed all over the District. Thus at Addison and Hedgfield there were 7 cases, Cwaverrook and Clara Vale 6. Barmoor 3, Woodside 3, Ryton 5. Except in one house in Ryton Village, where 2 cases occurred, all the others were

sporadic cases, which never infected other healthy children in the same house, and in which no connection could be traced with a previously existing case.

The cases were fairly well distributed over the whole year. Thus in January there were 4 cases, 1 at Clara Vale, 1 at Addison, 1 at Woodside, and 1 at Crawcrook. In February there were 3—Hedgefield, Crawcrook, Barmoor. In March, 4—at Addison 2, Woodside, Hedgefield. In April no case was notified. In May 3 cases—at Addison 2, and Crawcrook 1. In June, 2 cases, at Crawcrook and Addison. In July, 1 case at Barmoor. In August, 2 cases, at Ryton and Woodside. In September, 3 cases, 2 at Ryton in one house, and 1 at Emma. In October, 1 case at Ryton. In November and December, no cases. From this distribution one is justified in inferring that the cases had no common cause, and there is no evidence whatever of one having connection with another. Nor was there any evident sanitary defects in the affected houses, more than in those alongside of them, in which no cases occurred, and there is no evidence whatever of school life having anything to do with them. The experience of the past, as of previous years, has been to show that in this neighbourhood at any rate Diphtheria is not by any means a very infectious disease, and that except in houses where there is practically only one room, and where any attempt at isolation is out of the question, it is, with ordinary precautionary measures comparatively easily kept in check.

Further experience of the treatment of Diphtheria by antitoxin only tends still further to show its value. For though 3 deaths occurred, one was a child of one month only, and the other two were dead before antitoxin could be administered, or could have time to have any effect. For if antitoxin treatment is to be effective it cannot be administered too soon.

ENTERIC FEVER.—It is gratifying to find that Enteric Fever only showed itself in 5 sporadic cases, due to local causes, and difficult to account for, as at least two of them occurred in as clean houses with clean yards, ashpits, etc., as are to be found in the District. The number of cases is in marked contrast with the previous year, with its 90 cases and 9 fatalities.

MEASLES has been less prevalent during the year than for many years previously, and the same remark applies to WHOOPING COUGH, though it was fatal in one case.

There has been no notification of PUERPERAL FEVER, from which during the preceding year there were three fatalities.

INFLUENZA began to be somewhat prevalent towards the end of the year, but has not been attended by any fatality.

Four specimens from cases of suspected infectious disease have been sent to the College of Medicine Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination. The result was positive in 3 cases, and negative in 1.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The District has been regularly and systematically inspected during the year. Infected houses have been visited and disinfected and disinfectants have been freely supplied and used.

THE WATER SUPPLY has been abundant and continuous, and is derived from Chopwell and Whittle Dene.

The consumption during the year has been :—

Chopwell Water..... 9,146,000 gallons.

Whittle Dene Water.....26,919,000 gallons.

Total36,065,000 gallons.

The mean daily supply 98,808 gallons, which is equal to 11 gallons per head per day, based on a population supplied by the Council of 9,000, inclusive of all trade and sanitary purposes. A population of about 978 is supplied with water direct by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The Chopwell water is likely to be shortly taken away by colliery operations, and negotiations are being conducted with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. with the view of the whole of the water supply of the District being taken over by them.

THE SCAVENGING of the District is now being carried out by the Council, though it only came into operation towards the end of the year. We may hope that it will be done more efficiently than it could be done by owners and tenants, and that overflowing ashpits and middens will be things of the past.

SEWERAGE.—The sewers have been carefully attended to, flushed and disinfected. The sewer to Roekwood Hills, Greenside, has been completed. The sewer from Garden Terrace, Crawcrook, to its junction with the main sewer near the bottom of Clifford Terrace, has been re-laid, and a new outlet into the Tyne for the sewerage of Clara Vale has been constructed.

It is proposed to carry out a system for the sewerage of Woodside and part of the work is likely to be carried out during this summer.

HOSPITAL.—The Conjoint Hospital Committee for the Districts of Blaydon, Whickham, and Ryton, have now taken over the Hospital at Norman's Riding, which is now open for the reception of general infectious diseases; and the Small-pox Hospital at Greenside, which has been enlarged to make it sufficient for the three districts, our District is now for the first time provided with an Isolation Hospital for the treatment of all kinds of infectious disease.

THE HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC ROADS have, as hitherto, been well attended to, kept in good repair, and are generally excellent. There has been further extension of asphalted footpaths in various parts of the Districts, while the ordinary footpaths have been attended to and are generally good. Though there has been improvement in some of the private streets, there is room for improvement in others.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES in the District are licensed, have been inspected at intervals, and found fairly satisfactory.

COWKEEPERS are registered. Byres have been visited, and found on the whole clean and fairly well kept.

FACTORIES.—There are no factories in the District, and the few workshops are small, clean, well-ventilated, and healthy.

By the courtesy of the Inspector, I am able to give the tabular statement of the work done in his Department. I also add the tables required by the Local Government Board.

As there are no factories nor workshops in the strict sense of the word in the District, I am unable to fill up the new table sent out by the Local Government Board.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES W. SMITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY OF DURHAM.

*SUMMARY OF WORK done in the INSPECTOR OF
NUISANCES' DEPARTMENT during the Year
1906, in the Urban District of Ryton.*

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of Informal Written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses and Schools— Structural Defects ...				1	4 w.c.'s provided.
Ashpits and Privies ...				22	5	25	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...				2	1	3	
Defective Yard Paving ...				2	2	4	
House Drainage—Defective Traps ...				...	...	...
Other Faults ...				10	2	11	
Water Supply ...				5	...	4	
Pigsties ...				1	...	1	
Other Nuisances ...				1	1	1	
TOTALS ...				44	11	49	

JOHN P. DALTON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.		Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Non- residents register'd in Public Institu- tions in the District.		Deaths of Residents register'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.
	Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Non- residents register'd in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents register'd in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Number.	Rate.*		
			Number.	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Number.	Rate.*							
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1896..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1897	.	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1898..	7633	35·63	40	147	135	17·68	..	..	..	135	17·68	..
1899..	7922	35·09	42	151·01	120	15·14	..	..	..	120	15·14	..
1900..	8260	32·2	43	161·65	128	15·49	..	..	..	128	15·49	..
1901	8500	32	52	184·19	134	15·75	..	..	3	137	16·1	..
1902..	8750	37·9	33	99·09	109	12·45	..	..	1	110	12·57	..
1903.	9200	34·02	47	150·16	142	15·43	..	..	3	145	15·76	..
1904	9500	35·26	39	116·41	144	15·15	..	..	1	145	15·26	..
1905..	10000	32·22	55	170·8	157	15·7	..	..	3	160	16	..
Averages for years 1896-1905	..	..	..		..		..	..	..	..	..	..
1906	10300	35·14	48	132·5	128	12·42	..	..	2	130	12·62	..

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the District or Division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—5,149.

Total population at all ages 8,448 } At
 Number of inhabited houses 1,640 } Census of
 Average number of persons per house ... 5·15 } 1901.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1906.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwds
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	24	1	5	15	1	2	..
Membranous Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	7	..	..	..	2	5	..
Scarlet Fever. ..	88	2	37	44	2	3	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	5	..	..	1	..	4	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	4	..	..	2	..	2	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	128	3	42	62	5	16	

Isolation Hospital—Conjoint Hospital for Ryton, Blaydon, and Whickham.

Also Conjoint Smallpox Hospital

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

Causes of Death	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .. .	3	1	2	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
{ Other Continued .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	16	14	2	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	9	..	..	..	4	5	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	9	..	4	2	..	3	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	11	..	..	..	..	8	3
Bronchitis	10	4	..	..	..	..	6
Pneumonia	6	..	..	..	..	4	2
Pleurisy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Venereal Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	9	9	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Heart Diseases	5	..	..	..	..	4	1
Accidents	3	1	1	..	..	1	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Senility	6	..	..	..	..	..	6
Appendicitis	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
Diabetes	2	..	..	..	1	..	1
All other causes	30	16	2	1	..	3	8
All causes	130	48	12	3	6	34	27

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	{ Certified Uncertified	10 ..	4 ..	3 ..	..	17 ..	6 ..	7 ..	6 ..	1 ..	4 ..	..	1 ..	2 ..	2 ..	2 ..	..	48 ..
Common Infectious Diseases	{ Smallpox Chickenpox Measles Scarlet Fever Diphtheria : Croup Whooping Cough	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. 1 ..	.. .. .. .. 1 ..	.. .. .. .. 1 ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. 1 ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. 1
	{ Diarrhoea, all forms Enteritis (not Tuberculous) Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........
	{ Premature Birth Congenital Defects Injury at Birth Want of Breast-milk	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........
	{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus Tuberculous Meningitis Tubercular Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica Other Tuberculous Diseases	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........	........
Tuberculous Diseases	{ Erysipelas Syphilis Rickets Meningitis (not Tuberculous) Convulsions Bronchitis Laryngitis Pneumonia Suffocation, overlaying Other Causes	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................	....................
Other Causes.	{ Erysipelas Syphilis Rickets Meningitis (not Tuberculous) Convulsions Bronchitis Laryngitis Pneumonia Suffocation, overlaying Other Causes
	{ Erysipelas Syphilis Rickets Meningitis (not Tuberculous) Convulsions Bronchitis Laryngitis Pneumonia Suffocation, overlaying Other Causes
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	{ Erysipelas Syphilis Rickets Meningitis (not Tuberculous) Convulsions Bronchitis Laryngitis Pneumonia Suffocation, overlaying Other Causes

Births in the year—Legitimate, 255; Illegitimate, 7. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 128.
Population (estimated to middle of 1906), 10,300.



